



News for Immediate Release
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DWR Stocks Lake Oroville with Coho Salmon

SACRAMENTO - The Department of Water Resources will stock Lake Oroville with coho salmon through the third week of December 2005. About 55,000 fish will be planted in batches of 6,300 creating an economic and recreational benefit to the Oroville area.

The smolts are currently six to eight inches long, but will grow to a catchable size as early as February. "In previous years we have seen cohos reach the 14-16 inch range by April or May and three to five pounds by December," said DWR Fisheries Biologist, Eric See.

In 2002 and 2003, DWR purchased coho salmon eggs from its supplier in the state of Washington for hatching at the Feather River Fish Hatchery. The fish were then released into Lake Oroville. Coho planting was suspended in 2004 due to the supplier's fish failing the Department of Fish and Game's disease inspection process. As a result, Oroville's coho salmon supply was lean through 2005.

The current fish shipments have passed inspection, so the December 2005 planting should ensure anglers a better catch of coho salmon in the coming year. Lake Oroville is the only lake in California where coho are available. With 167 miles of forested shoreline and 16,000 acres of surface area, Lake Oroville is a popular recreation destination, receiving 1.1 million visitors in the last fiscal year.

The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.

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